



# STATE OF IDAHO

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

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DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT  
2110 Ironwood Parkway  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814  
(208) 667-3524

August 5, 1988

Bill Dameworth  
Potlatch Corporation  
P.O. Box 1016  
Lewiston, Idaho 83501

RE: Avery Landing Oil Spill

Dear Mr. Dameworth:

On July 29, two test pits were dug at the Avery Landing site to determine whether petroleum was present in the groundwater adjacent to the St. Joe River. Both revealed petroleum to be present. Up and down gradient test pits (or wells) are called for to further evaluate the areal extent of petroleum contamination.

Since then, I have talked with Dave Wren (on August 1) and you (on August 3) about drilling more wells for this purpose on Monday, August 8, 1988. I expressed concern that these wells may not be suitable, nor the information adequate, for determination of anything other than the areal extent of petroleum contamination. Also, I recommended that a hydrogeologist carry out the investigation. You gave assurances that you are only determining the areal extent, and that a hydrogeological consultant would be hired for a detailed evaluation and clean up. This is acceptable; however, the consultant will have to perform additional drilling to obtain necessary subsurface information.

Prior to starting the detailed evaluation, a study plan with a site map is to be prepared. This is to be submitted to this office by September 9, 1988, for our review and approval.

Another point to be considered is the possible exposure of the well driller to hazardous or dangerous materials. We believe that due to the nature of work in the past and possible burial of railroad ties, the materials could be present. If so, then Potlatch Corporation could be liable for exposure of workers to these materials; unless they have training and experience in handling hazardous materials.

Please contact this office if you have any questions.

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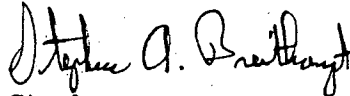
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Mr. Bill Dameworth  
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Sincerely,

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Stephen A. Breithaupt  
Senior Water Quality Specialist

SAB/pvc

cc: Larry Koenig, IDHW-DEQ, Boise  
Joe Baldwin, IDHW-DEQ, Boise  
Ed Tulloch, IDHW-DEQ, CDA